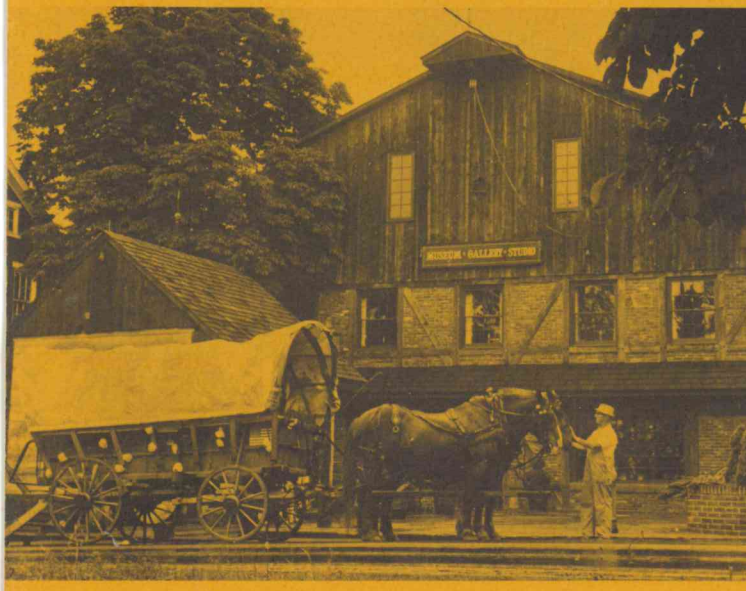
# Where Local Folks Take Their Friends

BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1776 ★ 1976

# FOLK CRAFT MUSEUM




## Early Americana Pennsylvania Dutch Museum / Gallery

*COUNTRY CRAFTS OF WITMER*
*Witmer, Penna. 17585 Phone 717/397-3609*

COUNTRY CRAFTS MUSEUM and GALLERY offers its visitors much more than the most unique collection of Pennsylvania Dutch antiques in the country. The moment you arrive at this Witmer, Pa. showplace, the word "antique" becomes an all-encompassing feeling. The buildings that house the priceless pieces are themselves antiques, and well worth the quick jaunt to Witmer. Built entirely of old materials salvaged throughout Lancaster County, the museum features half-timbered and brick construction, a style of architecture popular in the Berks County area in the early 1700's. Only a precious few authentic examples of this style of building can be seen in the area today.

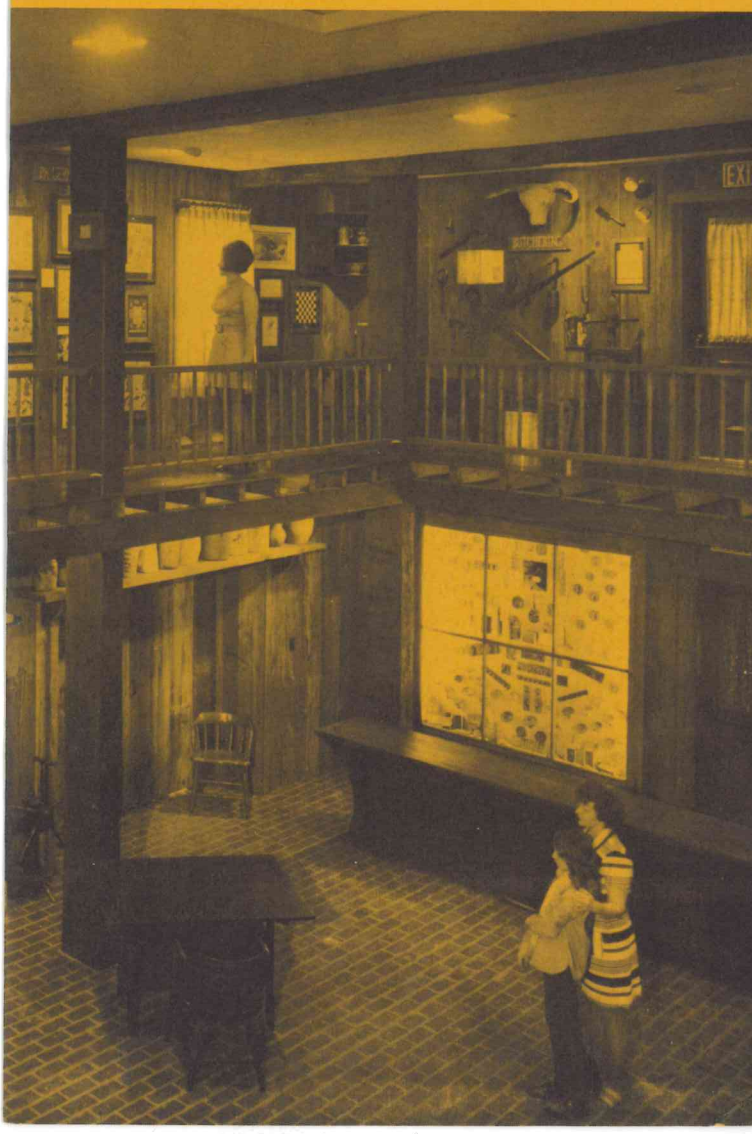
In this painstakingly detailed Early American setting, even the most unimaginative visitor finds it easy to suddenly become a part of the early eighteenth century.

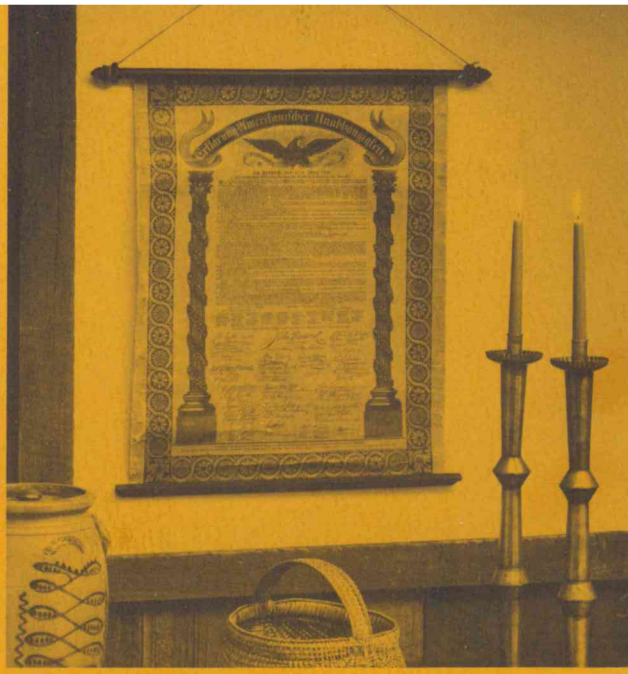
The museum displays the simple tools and household objects of the early settlers of the area. Antique buffs marvel

at the simplistic beauty wrought by these early craftsmen using tools considered extremely crude by today's standards. See flawless examples of Pennsylvania Dutch "Fraktur", primitives, butter molds, pottery, historical bottles, iron, tinware, Dower chests, clocks, toys and a host of other items sure to keep the whole family engrossed for hours.

MEL HORST, originator and owner of COUNTRY CRAFTS MUSEUM and GALLERY, gives his view of what a museum should be, "In grandmother's day a museum was like her attic . . . a storage place for assorted memorabilia. But today, a museum must do more than merely display preserved objects. A museum is an educational facility, whose purpose is to communicate a message. In this museum we seek, among other things, to interpret the craftsmanship, folk art and culture of Early American and Pennsylvania Dutch Folk."*

**Adapted from a museum concept statement by VMI Museum, Lexington, Va.*





★ ★ ★ **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** ★ ★ ★

Printed in German, on linen-backed parchment, and hand-colored, this rare document will be on display during the Bicentennial year. Originally sold for one dollar each, this is the only known copy in existence. It was printed by C.A. ELLIOT, S.W. Corner of Third and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

COUNTRY CRAFTS is located on Mt. Sidney road in the village of Witmer. Mt. Sidney Road starts at Route 340 west of Smoketown. Witmer is just "up the road a piece." The museum is open Mon. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Apr. 1 to Dec. 1.

Admission is $1.50 for adults, $.75 for children under 12. Under 6 - FREE.

Created and Produced by
Mel Horst Photography
Witmer, Penna. 17585 ©1976

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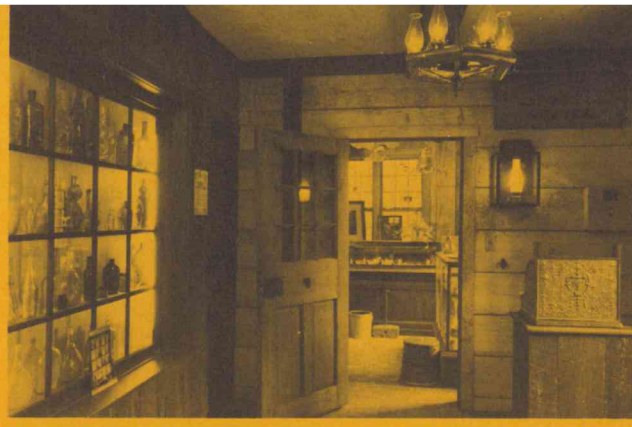


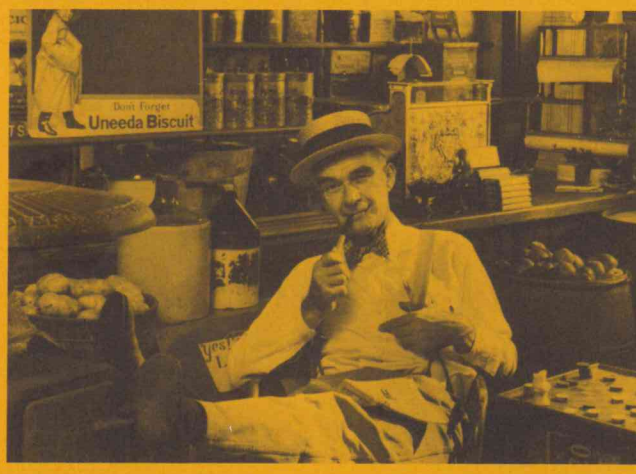
*Once inside it's easy to forget you're living in the 1970's. Rub elbows with the past, and enjoy it.*

*This authentically restored Meeting House serves as the museum's theater. A delightful slide/sound film is sure to give visitors new insight into old Amish & Pennsylvania Dutch crafts and customs.*

*The 1845 Book and Paper Shop is a must in your COUNTRY CRAFTS visit. Here too, authenticity is maintained with ultimate care.*

**COUNTRY CRAFTS COUNTRY STORE** was re-opened in spring 1973, after having been closed since 1928. Its illustrious career began in 1851 when Joel Miller opened his "General Merchandise" store. In 1897, Harry Kreider purchased the store and served the area with a "complete line of merchandise, hardware, clothing and groceries."

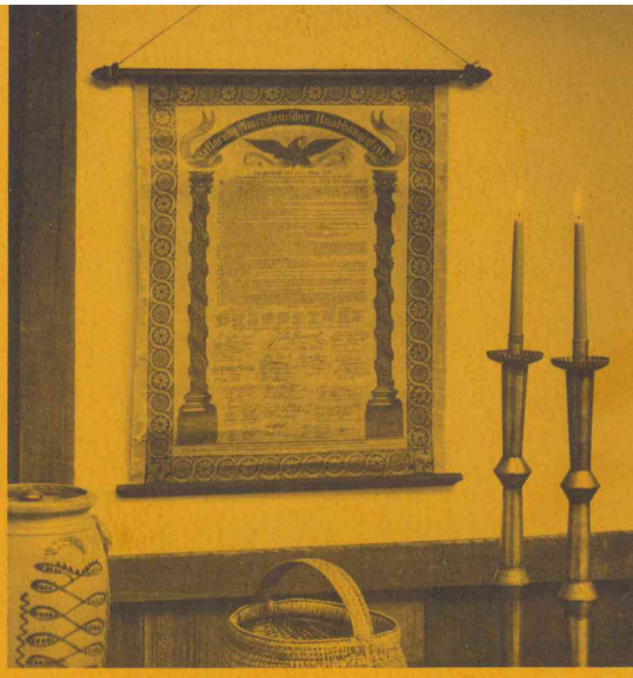
During the latter years of the 1920's Harry Kreiders widow leased the store to Harry Heller, who operated the store until 1928.




## LOG CABIN LOOM HAUS

Originally built in 1762 along the Cocalico Creek near the famous EPHRATA CLOISTER, this authentic log cabin was hauled intact to its present site. Siding applied years ago to hide the log construction was removed. The soft chinking between the logs was removed and replaced by new material that duplicates the original color and texture. The quaint, low doorway, typical of early log cabins, carries a caution sign lest milady spoil her new hairdo.

Adjacent to the LOG CABIN LOOM HAUS is an antique pump and stone watering trough, round grist mill stone, horse-drawn plow, and other items common to the era of the log cabin. Inside, the visitor will see a "century-old beam loom" used until 1928 in the Baird Bros Rug Mill, Mt. Holly Springs, Pa. Restored to operating condition, this loom now weaves old-fashioned hall runners and area rugs. Rugs from this loom are for sale.



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